



# Bassett Creek Watershed Management

Item 5C.  
BCWMC 3-18-21

## MEMO

To: BCWMC Commissioners and Alternate Commissioners  
From: BCWMC Technical Advisory Committee  
Date: March 10, 2021

**RE: Recommendations on 5-year Capital Improvement Program**

The BCWMC Technical Advisory Committee met on March 5<sup>th</sup> to discuss several items. Discussion is summarized below along with TAC recommendations for the 5-year CIP. Attendees included:

City/Partner	Technical Advisory Committee Members and Others
Crystal	Mark Ray
Golden Valley	Jeff Oliver, Eric Eckman, RJ Kakach, Marshall Beugen
Medicine Lake	Susan Wiese
Minneapolis	Liz Stout, Katie Kowalczyk
Minnetonka	Leslie Yetka, Chris Long
New Hope	Megan Hedstrom
Plymouth	Ben Scharenbroich, Chris La Bounty
Robbinsdale	Marta Roser, Richard McCoy
St. Louis Park	Erick Francis
Minneapolis Park and Rec Board	Rachael Crabb
Others	Laura Jester, Administrator; Karen Chandler and Jen Koehler, Commission Engineers; Stacy Harwell, Ceil Strauss, Suzanne Jiwani, and Jeff Weiss, MnDNR; Commissioner Welch, Alt. Commissioner Crough

### 1. FEMA Modeling/Mapping Project – Tasks and Timelines

TAC members, BCWMC Engineers, and staff with the MnDNR discussed issues related to the FEMA modeling and mapping project including:

- Methods used to generate the upstream storage polygons on maps
- Expectations related to the management and protection of upstream storage areas
- Methods of protection for upstream storage areas including
  - Easements or public property
  - Surface water management plans
  - City code/ordinances
  - WCA/wetland regulations

- Recorded agreements that include provisions around development, maintenance, and/or operation of storm water facilities

Next steps in the process were identified:

- MnDNR will supply the cities with additional information on maps and mapping methodologies
  - a. MnDNR staff will provided “cleaned up” map
  - b. MnDNR staff will provide clarification on what the minimum polygon size is for consideration as upland storage
- Cities will review revised maps and provide feedback to the MnDNR regarding storage areas/polygons to remove from the map (30 days)
- MnDNR will re-run the model with city feedback

## **2. Recommendations on 5-year Capital Improvement Program**

The TAC discussed five CIP projects proposed by member cities, reviewed the scores for the proposed projects in the CIP Prioritization Matrix, reviewed changes to the existing 5-year CIP, and discussed impacts on the total projected levy for years 2022 – 2027. Discussion items of note include:

- Cities use the prioritization maps and scoring matrix to determine if potential projects would fit well into Commission priorities before bringing projects for consideration.
- Cities assessed potential projects and compared them against other options; the impacts and benefits of the potential projects are understood.
- Many of the proposed projects will address flooding and/or improve resiliency to future high precipitation.
- The “low hanging fruit” of less expensive projects have already been implemented, space for projects is getting tighter and projects are getting more complicated, resulting in higher costs.

Below is the list of TAC-recommended projects for the 5-year CIP along with other recommended changes to the CIP. Additional project information and maps can be found in the project fact sheets attached. The prioritization matrix and complete recommended CIP table are also attached.

### **Recommended Additions, Deletions, and Changes to the 5-year CIP (fact sheets & table attached)**

#### Changes to Existing 5-year CIP (changes shown in red in attached table)

- The feasibility study for the Medley Park Stormwater Facility Project (ML-12) in Golden Valley is currently underway and is estimating much higher costs than originally earmarked in CIP. Total project costs may be around \$2,000,000; Golden Valley to provide about \$500,000. The Commission will review a draft feasibility study at their May meeting. CIP table includes the updated potential total project cost at \$1.5M.
- The Main Stem Lagoon Dredging Project (BC-7) total project cost was reduced by \$500,000 for lower-than-expected engineering and was reduced by \$325,000 for grants received to date. The CIP table was adjusted accordingly.
- Due to an accounting error, BWCMC will have lower than expected closed project funds available over the next few years. Use of the Closed Project Funds was adjusted accordingly in the CIP table.

#### Deletions from Existing 5-year CIP (changes shown in red in attached table)

- Project BC-9, the restoration and stabilization of historic Bassett Creek channel, Main Stem was removed from the 5-year CIP due to its low priority and unknown impacts from future Blue Line LRT.

Additions to 5-year CIP (shown in orange in attached table; further details in attached fact sheets)

- Beacon Heights 2nd Addition Stormwater Improvement Project: \$150,000; matrix score = 12.5  
This project in the City of Plymouth will add stormwater treatment to an area that currently has little or no water quality treatment and drains to Medicine Lake. This project would be constructed in conjunction with a street reconstruction project in 2022.
- Cost share purchase of high efficiency street sweeper: \$150,000; matrix score = 13.0  
This project will help the City of Golden Valley upgrade an existing street sweeper from a mechanical sweeper to an enhanced regenerative sweeper. The project would follow the [BCWMC's CIP Equipment Purchase Policy](#) by targeting the timing and location of its use in subwatersheds of impaired waterbodies, and evaluating and reporting its effectiveness (consistent with the requirements placed on the City of Plymouth for their sweeper purchase).
- Toledo Ave/Minnaqua Pond Stormwater Improvements & Flood Reduction: \$700,000; matrix score = 13.5. This project in the City of Golden Valley will improve water quality and reduce flooding in the Minnaqua Pond area.
- Plymouth Creek Restorations (2) Dunkirk to Yuma and Vicksburg to Cty Rd 9: \$600,000 total; matrix scores 9.5 and 10.5, respectively. These stream restoration projects would expand on the previous Plymouth Creek restoration projects and will repair eroding streambanks, improving water quality and near stream and in-stream habitats.
- Flood Control Project Double Box Culvert Repairs: \$1.2M; not scored in matrix  
This project was recommended by the Commission Engineer after the 2019 inspection of the Bassett Creek Tunnel Double Box Culvert for needed repairs within the tunnel.

### 3. Private Development Cost Share Program

The TAC had a fairly lengthy discussion about the possibility of recommending that the Commission start a cost share program to incentivize private developers to expand planned BMPs or add BMPs for “above and beyond” (BCWMC development requirements) pollutant removals. The discussion points of note include:

- The Four Seasons Mall redevelopment project is an example of where BCWMC CIP funding is being used to achieve higher than required pollutant removals.
- Plymouth is likely to experience significant redevelopment in the next 10-20 years and would like to capitalize on the opportunity to expand treatment through financial incentives.
- Minneapolis is also likely to experience significant redevelopment directly adjacent to the creek in the Bassett Creek Valley.
- Some cities (like Crystal, New Hope and Robbinsdale) wouldn't be able to take advantage of such a program due to small areas in the watershed that are limited to residential land.
- The timeline of the Commission's CIP program does not fit well with the pace of how quickly redevelopment projects typically happen.
- The Commission may not have the staff capacity to run a cost share program for private developers due to the amount of time negotiations and contracting can take.
- The pros and cons of using CIP funds versus operating funds for a cost share program.

At the end of the conversation there was consensus that although needed, the time was not right for the Commission to embark on this type of program. There was also consensus that this program should be thoroughly reviewed and considered during development of the 2025 Watershed Management Plan.